

## **IDOC Commissioner's Awards Luncheon a Great Success**

Indianapolis, Indiana – (October 11, 2007) Commissioner J. David Donahue hosted his 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Commissioner's Awards Luncheon during the second day of the Indiana Correctional Associations annual conference. This year's awards ceremony witnessed records attendance as Department of Correction employees gathered to pay tribute to the best in corrections.

"This past year the Department of Correction focused particular attention to developing great leaders from within the agency," said Commissioner Donahue. "This effort is brightly reflected through the passion and dedication so easily observed from this year's award recipients." Twelve awards were announced this year. The four Commissioner award recipients included "Facility of the Year," which went to the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility; "Superintendent of the Year," received by Wendy Knight of Plainfield Correctional Facility; "Correctional Employee of the Year", given to Rick Newton of Branchville Correctional Facility; and, "Innovator Employee of the Year," awarded to Rosaline (Sue) Rohrer, from the Westville Correctional Facility.

Congratulations to all the winners.

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### **Human Resources Employee of the Year**

This award is given to a Human Resources employee who offers a great contribution by enhancing HR processes and facilitating excellence in recruitment and retention practices. This year's recipient has been with the Department since 1998. Over this past year, she has been instrumental in the early completion of staff re-organization, has facilitated several job fairs at Work One offices, and served a critical role as her Facility's Affirmative Action Coordinator.

Congratulations to JOAN COOPER OF MIAMI CORRECTIONAL FACILITY!



**Physical Plant Employee of the Year**

This award recognizes an employee who has demonstrated efficiency and effectiveness at the facility in the areas of construction, facility and space management, or maintenance. This year's winner joined DOC in 1983 and promoted to his current position in 2006. This year, he has successfully completed numerous challenging construction projects and renovations, including enhancing the roof soffits of several historical buildings using offender labor. He also supervised construction of a new facility Administration building. He is known for his supervisory skills and his vision. Congratulations to JEFF MEECE OF MADISON CORRECTIONAL FACILITY!

**Correctional Professional of the Year**

This award is given to an employee who has made significant contributions within DOC, has displayed excellent interpersonal skills, is a subject matter expert, and works well in stressful situations. This year's recipient is known for his depth of knowledge and experience, and for his passion, devotion, and drive for excellence. He has been instrumental in shifting all training entities from Emergency Response Operations to Staff Development and Training, and orchestrating the inaugural Joint Ohio/Indiana ERO Conference. Congratulations to ARNOLD LOVE OF STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING!



### **Correctional Employee of the Year**

This award recognizes a uniformed staff member who excels in maximizing facility operations. Our 2007 award winner is a Youth Services Supervisor who fills many roles at his Facility. He has excelled in his responsibilities as the Facility's ACA coordinator, policy coordinator, and training coordinator. He has been a member of the Department since 2000, promoting to his current role in March 2006. Congratulations to **KARL PRUETT OF CAMP SUMMIT BOOT CAMP!**



### **Corrections Supervisor of the Year**

This award is given to one who has set himself apart as an agent of change. He has been responsible for the development of two innovative programs, including the Residential Treatment and Chronic Care Units. He joined the Indiana Department of Correction in 1990 and worked his way through the ranks. He was promoted to his current role as Captain at the Maximum Control Complex in 2001. He has provided leadership on many projects during his career. This last year alone, he helped develop a Residential Treatment Unit and a Chronic Care Unit at his Facility. Congratulations to **CAPTAIN JEFFREY BATCHELOR OF INDIANA STATE PRISON!**



### **Parole District Employee of the Year**

This award recognizes a Parole Division employee who has made a significant contribution to re-entry. Our winner this year joined the Department of Correction in 1993. In 2005, he assumed a specialized sex offender caseload in a five-county region. His exceptional efforts have helped offenders returning to the community receive grant assistance. His commitment to his position has also led to the discovery of





potential criminal activity which could have resulted in harm to children in the community.

Congratulations to CHARLES BOWEN OF THE SOUTH BEND PAROLE OFFICE!

### **Re-Entry Program Employee of the Year**

We give this award to recognize a re-entry program leader who has made significant innovative contributions to re-entry programs. The recipient this year began her career with the Department of Correction in 2000 and was promoted to her current role as Program Director just this year. Her peers recognize her as an energetic and innovative leader who leads by example. She has provided exceptional leadership of the CLIFF and PLUS programs, as well as piloted several new projects. Congratulations to TRICIA PRETORIUS OF MIAMI CORRECTIONAL FACILITY!



### **Chaplain of the Year**

With this award, we recognize a chaplain who has been innovative in the delivery of religious programs to the offender population over the past year. This year's recipient began her career with the Department in 2006 and has helped re-energize the volunteer program at her Facility. Her efforts have increased the amount of programming available to offenders and have generated the first ever PLUS Unit waiting list at the Facility. Congratulations to CATHERINE BOWIE OF INDIANA WOMEN'S PRISON!



### **Innovative Employee of the Year**

This award is given to an employee who has demonstrated that her initiative is truly creative, measurably effective, meets a significant need, and can be transferred to other jurisdictions. Her innovative efforts this year have been especially helpful in the reorganization of the Business Office, as well as enhancements made to Commissary, Warehouse Operations, Supplies Management and Offender Trust Fund Management. She elicits top performance from those she supervises because of her frequent words of praise and recognition. Her calm, dignified and professional manner has had a positive impact throughout the Facility. Her vast job knowledge, gracious approach and positive attitude prompted great changes within her areas of influence. Congratulations to ROSALINE (SUE) ROHRER OF WESTVILLE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY!



### **Employee of the Year**

This award is given to an employee who has enhanced the rehabilitation process, improved security, or provided valued service to his facility. This year's winner has been with the Department for 25 years, with vast experience ranging from Correctional Officer to his current position as Executive Assistant. He is tireless in his efforts to provide training, support new re-entry initiatives such as ICAN and SPOT, and enhance public relations through his work with the Facility's Community Advisory Board. Congratulations to RICHARD NEWTON OF BRANCHVILLE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY!



### **Superintendent of the Year**

This award is given to a superintendent who possesses skills, knowledge, judgment and communications that have made a positive impact on offenders, staff, the agency and the community. This year's winner has successfully managed many positive changes at her Facility, including to a new population composed of mostly sex offenders. She is known for her professionalism and her leadership skills, especially in choosing the best people for each task. In addition, through her landscape management program, the Facility donated over 14,000 pounds of produce to the community.

Congratulations to WENDY KNIGHT OF PLAINFIELD CORRECTIONAL FACILITY



### **Facility of the Year**

This award goes to the Facility or office that has collaborated with the community to aid in re-entry, and demonstrated the use of the three E's: effectiveness, efficiency, and employees. This year's winner had a record number of program graduates, earning everything from GEDs and Vocational Certificates to Bachelor's Degrees; with nearly 28 percent of the population involved in education programs. This Facility offers a Department of Labor Apprenticeship Program. Nearly 96 percent of eligible offenders are working, and 24 percent are involved in time cut programs such as Thinking For A Change. In addition, this year the Facility was called upon, without notice, to manage unusual additions to its normal population, including those from other jurisdictions and young, dangerous offenders, and hard-to-manage safekeepers. Congratulations to WABASH VALLEY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY







Commissioner's Award Ceremony Opens with the Posting of the Colors



P.E.N. Products own Doug Evans sings the National Anthem



Staff of Plainfield Correctional Facility joins Wendy Knight in support of her "Superintendent of the Year" award.